

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:RJKOTT:HMN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 139307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN-AMERICAN TRADE DELEGATION

REF: LAGOS 6777

1. PER PARA ONE REFTEL, DEPARTMENT AND SWISS AIR CAN NOT RPT NOT DO ANYTHING WITH RESPECT TO HOLDING HOTEL RESERVATIONS, CONFIRMING AIR RESERVATIONS, OR ARRANGING GROUND TRANSPORT WITHOUT CONFIRMATION THAT DEPOSIT HAS BEEN PAID. SWISS AIR HAS AGREED TO "GO OUT ON LIMB" TO CONFIRM HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY UNTIL DEPOSIT FORTHCOMING.

2. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT DELEGATION STILL DOES NOT HAVE CONFIRMED AIR RESERVATIONS FOR DOMESTIC US TRAVEL. ORGANIZATIONS IN SIX US CITIES ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE TIMES FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. TO WAIT MUCH LONGER BEFORE PASSING THIS NECESSARY INFORMATION TO PEOPLE WHO ARE VOLUNTARILY EXPENDING CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EXPENSE ON THIS TRADE DELEGATION IS NOT ONLY UNWARRANTED BUT POOR PUBLIC RELATIONS.

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3. DEPARTMENT URGES EMBASSY TO IMPRESS UPON DELEGATION THE URGENCY AND NECESSITY OF OBTAINING CONFIRMED HOTEL,

AIR, AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR A GROUP OF 28 TRAVELING TO SIX MAJOR US CITIES IN PEAK TOURIST SEASON. UNLESS THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT FURTHER

DELAY, WE MAY HAVE TO SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT OF MISSION. VANCE

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